

**Postcards from America
Research Paper (extra credit)
Undergraduate and Graduate students
Spring 2017**

For up to 5 extra points added to your final term average write a short, focused research paper on a **pre-approved topic**.

This short research paper is to consist of a 5-page narrative **plus** on separate pages a **bibliography and appropriate maps and illustrations** on a pre-approved topic that deals with an aspect of the North American landscape or discusses the theories and concepts of landscape study.

The paper must be concise, focused on the approved topic and **show the geography behind the theme** by incorporating at least one of the *Five Themes of Geography* as presented in class. A **minimum of two maps** must be included in the paper, one showing the location of the topic within the US or Canada and the other a detail of the area or event being discussed.

SELECT a topic or theme covered in any chapter of *The Making of the American Landscape* edited by Conzen.

CONSULT the footnotes for that chapter and the bibliography at the end of the book for sources of information related to the chapter.

EXPAND on a topic of interest using the author's sources as a starting point.

FORMAT

- **Cover page** with topic title and your name/class
- **Introduction:** state purpose, theme and what you intend to show.
- **Body of paper:** main discussion; include footnotes and citations; add appropriate illustrations as maps diagrams, photographs
- **Conclusion:** A summary of the paper. This contains **NO NEW** information.
- **Bibliography.** Use one standard citation format of your choice. If you are not sure, check with the Reading and Writing Center.

Primary Indexes, Abstracts, and Full Text Databases

- [GEOBASE](#)

Indexes and abstracts the international literature on cultural and physical geography, geology, ecology, natural resources, international development, land use planning, and related fields.

Excellent resource for international development related topics. Indexes journal articles, books, and conference proceedings. Coverage: 1980 - present.

More>>>

- [GeoRef](#)
Indexes journal articles, books, maps and reports to literature in geology covering North America since 1785 and other areas since 1933
- [Google Scholar](#)
Very useful portal for locating academic articles, government reports and other references. Links to all databases accessible to Hunter College Libraries.
- [Greenfile](#)
Bibliographic database about environmental concerns from scholarly and general interest publications and government documents.
- [GREENR](#)
Portal that offers authoritative content on the development of emerging green technologies and discusses issues on the environment, sustainability and more
- [LexisNexis Academic](#)
Links to newspaper, magazine and journal articles. Good for searching regional press.

Source: Library Guide, Hunter College Libraries by Prof. B. Lym, Oct., 2010

POSTCARDS FROM AMERICA: POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR EXTRA CREDIT RESEARCH PAPER.

Be sure to check with me before beginning your research. In addition to the topics listed below you may present other relevant topics for my approval.

1. Select a unit of the US National Park Service or Parks Canada. Go to its web site and read about its setting and significance. Discuss its physical and/or cultural landscape.
2. Select a neighborhood of New York City and discuss its landscape development over time.
3. Read the works of a geographer who researched and wrote about landscapes or human imprint. Discuss that person's point of view and the influence it had on academic studies in geography.
4. Use any of the landscape-themed books in the syllabus bibliography and discuss an aspect of the information presented within its pages.
5. Select one of the regions listed on the syllabus and delve into one of the topics highlighted in class lectures or assigned readings.
6. Select an area of the US or Canada that is undergoing "preservation" or "rehabilitation" or "returning to its historical roots" or "reverting back to nature" or some similar transformation of present day landscape into something that existed in the past. Critically discuss the project.
7. Select an area of the US or Canada that has a unique heritage and discuss how that plays out visually and the purpose for maintaining it.
8. Select a natural process that is deemed a "natural hazard" in one of the regions of the US or Canada. Discuss its effect on that area and illustrate the changes that have occurred both by the natural process and people's reaction to it.
9. Select a technology invented by people and discuss its effect on the visual landscape of an area within the US or Canada.
10. Select an immigrant group who settled in the US or Canada and discuss their imprint on the area in which they concentrated.
11. Other appropriate topics are welcomed for my approval.